

## Joseph Delaplaine to Andrew Jackson, March 25, 1815, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### JOSEPH DELAPLAINE TO JACKSON.1

1 This letter is interesting through revealing the method by which a print-maker of the day could make a picture of a popular contemporary event.

Philadelphia, March 25, 1815.

*Dear Sir,* Being in the habit of publishing extensively, my friends and many citizens of this City, have called upon me to cause a painting of the Battle of New-Orleans, to be engraved in the best manner. I have agreed to publish a print of the subject, and have announced, this day, in the Gazettes, my having applied to our distinguished young countryman now in London, Mr. C. R. Leslie, to paint it, to be engraved by Mr. Alexander Lawson of Philadelphia. Size of the print 27 Inches long and 19 wide.

I beg you Sir, to have the goodness to furnish me with a ground plan of the fortifications, a sketch of the appearance of the country taken from within our lines looking down the road towards the British as they were advancing, a description of the times of the Battle that will be the most favourable and interesting to make the picture from, and situations you were in at those times—what officers stood near you, their names, Rank etc—what was the general uniform of the Tennessee and Kentucky troops, Uniform of the New Orleans Volunteers—whether you and your officers near you wore round or cocked hats, and generally, any facts and circumstances that your politeness will furnish in aiding my object. I shall then forward them immediately on their receipt to London, and from there Mr. Leslie will furnish the picture. When the picture arrives here, the engraver commences *his* work

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and when he comes to your portrait in the picture and also those of your officers who were near you in battle, he will want likenesses, or portraits of each.

Be pleased sir to inform me whether there is a portrait of yourself, *by whom painted* , and whether I can be permitted at the time it will be wanted, to have it here for the use of the engraver. Have the goodness sir, also to inform me whether it is your intention of visiting our City, and if so, as what probable time. I have engaged our first rate portrait painter, to paint your portrait for me on your arrival, by your permission. Have the goodness also to inform me whether it is the intention of those officers who were near you in battle to visit this, as I wish to have their portraits also in order to make the picture more complete. Their names if you please, that I may enquire for them.

My worthy friend General Harrison will have the goodness to forward this letter in one of his which will make my character known to you. I take the liberty of mentioning Sir, that I am anxious to receive the account of the Battle as stated in the preceding page, as soon as possible to enable the painter in London to commence the picture. The portraits are subjects which may be attended to hereafter and at your leisure if you should visit us.

I am with the greatest respect